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United States Department of State

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Washington, D. C. 20520

BQ12

ACTION MEMORANDUM
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DECL:OADR

TO: G - Mr. Wirth
FROM: AF - George E. Moose
SUBJECT: Reply to July 27 letter from Alison L. Des Forges
of Human Rights Watch/Africa

Attached is Ms. Des Forges' July 27 letter. She attended the July 25 NGO conference at the White House, where she learned that the USG will support the Rwandan government's call for a lifting of the arms embargo against it, subject to certain conditions. Ms. Des Forges would like progress on the humanitarian problems inside Rwandan prisons to become one of those conditions.

The proposed reply makes it clear that we share Ms. Des Forges' concern about conditions in Rwandan prisons, and will take it up with their government at the highest levels before the arms embargo vote. However, we will not make it a condition of our support for their position on lifting of the arms embargo. We have already attached several conditions to our support, including a ban on transfers of arms to other parties in the region and a requirement that arms be marked and registered. We will seek to have language in the preamble of the resolution which expresses the Security Council's concern about conditions in the prisons. We have stated that our support for the Rwandan position is based on our concern that they be able to defend themselves against extremist Hutu exiles.

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RECOMMENDATION

That you sign and send the attached reply to the July 27 letter of Ms. Alison L. Des Forges of Human Rights Watch/Africa, concerning making progress on Rwandan prisons a condition of USG support for lifting the arms embargo on Rwanda.

APPROVE _____ DISAPPROVE _____

Attachments:

Tab 1 - Proposed reply
Tab 2 - Ms. Des Forges' letter

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Dec
Drafted: AF/C: DHefflin
8/2/95, 7-3139
SEALLAF 6421

Clearance: AF: PBushnell
AF/C: ARender (subs) *Arson*
AF/FO: RBogosian *Ar*
DRL: CNix (subs)
IO/UNP: GStanton (subs) *Ar*
PM/SRP: KGallegos (subs)
USUN/W: SGeorge

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